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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8206**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2011 1st Special Session

**State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 1st Special Session**

**By** Senators Zarelli, Brown, Pridemore, Tom, Kilmer, White, and Parlette

Read first time 01/20/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3            THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the  
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state  
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
6 Article VII, section 12 of the Constitution of the state of Washington  
7 to read as follows:

8            Article VII, section 12. (a) A budget stabilization account shall  
9 be established and maintained in the state treasury.

10           (b)(1) By June 30th of each fiscal year, an amount equal to one  
11 percent of the general state revenues for that fiscal year shall be  
12 transferred to the budget stabilization account. Nothing in this  
13 subsection (b) shall prevent the appropriation of additional amounts to  
14 the budget stabilization account.

15           (2) By June 30th of the second year of each fiscal biennium, three-  
16 quarters of any extraordinary revenue growth shall be transferred to  
17 the \_\_ budget \_\_ stabilization \_\_ account. However, \_\_ no \_\_ transfer \_\_ of  
18 extraordinary revenue growth under this subsection (b)(2) shall occur  
19 in a fiscal biennium following a fiscal biennium in which annual

1 average state employment growth averaged less than one percent per  
2 fiscal year. "Extraordinary revenue growth" means the amount by which  
3 the growth in general state revenues for that fiscal biennium exceeds  
4 by one-third the average biennial percentage growth in general state  
5 revenues over the prior five fiscal biennia. In making this  
6 determination, the comparability of data shall be maintained by  
7 adjusting historical general state revenues to reflect statutory  
8 changes to the dedication of state revenues. The transfer under this  
9 subsection shall be made only to the extent that it exceeds the total  
10 transfers under (1) of this subsection for that fiscal biennium.

11 (c) Each fiscal quarter, the state economic and revenue forecast  
12 council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor  
13 entity, shall estimate state employment growth for the current and next  
14 two fiscal years.

15 (d) Moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget  
16 stabilization account as follows:

17 (i) If the governor declares a state of emergency resulting from a  
18 catastrophic event that necessitates government action to protect life  
19 or public safety, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and  
20 appropriated from the budget stabilization account, via separate  
21 legislation setting forth the nature of the emergency and containing an  
22 appropriation limited to the above-authorized purposes as contained in  
23 the declaration, by a favorable vote of a majority of the members  
24 elected to each house of the legislature.

25 (ii) If the employment growth forecast for any fiscal year is  
26 estimated to be less than one percent, then for that fiscal year moneys  
27 may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account  
28 by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each  
29 house of the legislature.

30 (iii) Any amount may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget  
31 stabilization account at any time by the favorable vote of at least  
32 three-fifths of the members of each house of the legislature.

33 (e) Amounts in the budget stabilization account may be invested as  
34 provided by law and retained in that account. When the balance in the  
35 budget stabilization account, including investment earnings, equals  
36 more than ten percent of the estimated general state revenues in that  
37 fiscal year, the legislature by the favorable vote of a majority of the  
38 members elected to each house of the legislature may withdraw and

1 appropriate the balance to the extent that the balance exceeds ten  
2 percent of the estimated general state revenues. Appropriations under  
3 this subsection (e) may be made solely for deposit to the education  
4 construction fund.

5 (f) As used in this section, "general state revenues" has the  
6 meaning set forth in Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution.  
7 Forecasts and estimates shall be made by the state economic and revenue  
8 forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or  
9 successor entity.

10 (g) The legislature shall enact appropriate laws to carry out the  
11 purposes of this section.

12 (h) This section takes effect July 1, 2008.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
14 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four  
15 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal  
16 newspaper in the state.

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